

Introduced by Senator Florez
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Chan)

April 21, 2003

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 22—Relative to Asthma Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 22, as introduced, Florez. Asthma Awareness Month.

This measure would designate the month of May 2003 as Asthma Awareness Month in order to increase awareness and understanding about asthma and to educate those with the disease on the treatments available and the methods to prevent attacks.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Over two million Californians suffer from asthma,
- 2 and the illness is responsible for approximately 40,000
- 3 hospitalizations and 600 deaths annually in California; and
- 4 WHEREAS, An estimated 11.9 percent of Californians, or 3.9
- 5 million adults and children, have been diagnosed with asthma; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Asthma disproportionately affects children and
- 7 young adults and, in California, its prevalence is highest among
- 8 children who are 12 to 17 years of age; and
- 9 WHEREAS, The self-reported lifetime occurrence of asthma
- 10 has increased 66 percent in the last 20 years in California; and
- 11 WHEREAS, Women are affected with asthma at much higher
- 12 rates than men, African-Americans in California are three times
- 13 more likely than Caucasians to be hospitalized due to asthma, and
- 14 rates of hospitalization due to asthma among Hispanic and Asian
- 15 children in California have been increasing; and

1 WHEREAS, The effects of asthma include missed school and
2 work days, disruption of sleep and daily activities, emergency
3 medical visits for asthma exacerbation, and even death; and

4 WHEREAS, The direct and indirect economic impact of asthma
5 was estimated to cost California \$1.27 billion in 1998,
6 hospitalizations represented the largest direct medical expense
7 related to asthma in 2000, and the average cost per hospitalization
8 was \$13,000; and

9 WHEREAS, The majority of hospitalizations from asthma are
10 thought to be preventable and, therefore, the \$1.27 billion in costs
11 associated with these hospitalizations are likely to be preventable
12 as well; and

13 WHEREAS, It is important that every person with asthma be
14 diagnosed, receive appropriate treatment, learn how to manage his
15 or her asthma, and reduce exposure to environmental factors that
16 make his or her asthma worse; now, therefore, be it

17 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
18 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby designates the
19 month of May 2003 as Asthma Awareness Month in order to
20 increase awareness and understanding about asthma and to
21 educate those with the disease on the treatments available and the
22 methods to prevent attacks; and be it further

23 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
24 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

